minimum lending rate on credit limits of over Rs. 2 lacs prescribed for scheduled commercial banks was reduced four times by a percentage point each effective March 2, 1992, October 9, 1992, March 1, 1993, and September 2, 1993. As the lending rate structure prescribed by the RBI links the rate of interest to the size of a loan, all advances, including those to 'businessmen for business purposes', would be governed by the same stipulation. When reduction in the minimum lending rate have been announced, the banks were advised by RBI to reduce the different rate charged to borrowers by the stipulated reduction taking into account credit rating of the borrowers. The interest rate stipulated by RBI applicable to larger advances including those for business purposes are the minimum and banks may charge higher rates of interest depending upon the credit rating of the parties. Changes in the structure of lending rates for the past three years i.e. April, 1991 to-date is given in the *Annexure*.

[*See* Appendix 170, Annexure No. 19]

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that they have not come across any case of violation of their directives issued to banks regarding revision in rate of interest on loans provided by them.

Delay in Customs Clearance of Foreign Tourists

*90. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been some complaints of delay in the customs clearance of foreign tourists at the Delhi and Bombay Airports; if so, the nature of complaints and the action taken thereon;

(b) in view of the national policy to encourage tourism, particularly the flow of foreign tourists, whether Government would consider additional measure to facilitate the clearance of foreign tourists; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government also propose to create a special tourist line like the Green Line for clearance of foreign tourists where more courtesies can be extended to them than that which are normally allowed at the Green Line?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) There have been very few complaints of delay in customs clearance of foreign tourists at the international airports. Recently there has been one complaint specifically on the cumbersome "Tourist Baggage Re-Export Form" procedure and entries in passports required thereunder.

The customs clearance procedures of tourists have since been reviewed by the Government. The Baggage Rules, 1994 which come into effect from 1st March, 1994 provide for clearance of such items by tourists without having to make any entries in their passports. As a Result of this measure, a major irritant to incoming tourists has been removed and it will facilitate expeditious clearance of tourists.

There is already a green channel for passengers not carrying dutiable items. With the aforesaid changes made in the procedures relating to clearance of tourists, it is felt that there is no need for a special tourist line.

Currency Chests in Various Banks

*91. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of currency chests maintained by various banks of behalf of Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) the volume of amount held by these currency chests as on 30th June, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that as on 30th June, 1993 there were 3563 currency chests maintained by various banks of RBI's behalf.

(b) The volume of amount held by these currency chests as on 30th June, 1993 was Rs. 36811.65 crores.

Proposal of Rupert Murdoch for Opening Up of the skies

*92. DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH:
SHRI G.G. SWELL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal of Rupert Murdoch for opening up of the skies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that such an action will constitute a media invasion since this will have a serious impact on the cultural outlook of our people; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

केन्द्र सरकार पर भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के बकाया कर्जे

*93. **डा० जिनेन्द्र कुमार जैन:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार द्वारा गैर-विकासात्मक व्यय में निरंतर वृद्धि के कारण भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक से ली गई ऋणों की राशि एवं देश में मुद्रा परिचालन में वृद्धि हुई है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो दिसम्बर, 1992 तथा दिसम्बर, 1993 में क्रमशः केन्द्र सरकार पर भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक से प्राप्त कितनी-कितनी ऋण राशि बकाया थी और कितनी-कितनी मुद्रा परिचालन में थी;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि मुद्रा परिचालन में वृद्धि के परिणामस्वरूप भारतीय रुपए की क्रय शक्ति में और कमी आई है; और

(घ) 1982 की कीमतों के आधार पर दिसम्बर, 1992 तथा दिसम्बर, 1993 के दौरान भारतीय रुपए की क्रय शक्ति के संबंध में आकलन क्या है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० अबरार अहमद): (क) सरकार के कुल ऋण मांगों में से भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा सरकार को दिए गए कर्जे एक हिस्सा हैं। सरकार की ऋण मांगें कुल व्यय (विकासात्मक और गैर-विकासात्मक) तथा कर एवं कर-भिन्न राजस्व प्राप्ति के आधार पर निर्भर है। तदनुसार इसका गैर-विकासात्मक व्यय जैसे व्यय के एक घटक से सीधा संबंध नहीं है और यह भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक से ऋणों के नाम से एक प्रकार के सरकारी ऋण हैं।

सरकार के राजकोषीय घाटे और विदेशी मुद्रा भंडार दोनों में रिजर्व मुद्रा देयता के बढ़ जाने के कारण मुद्रापूर्ति (एम०-3) में वृद्धि हुई है।

(ख) केन्द्र सरकार पर भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के बकाया निवल कर्जे (एम०आर०सी०सी०जी०) और 25 दिसम्बर, 1992 एवं 24 दिसम्बर, 1993 को मुद्रा पूर्ति (एम-3) इस प्रकार हैं:—

(करोड़ रुपए में)

	25 दिसम्बर, 1992	24 दिसम्बर, 1993
(i) एन०आर०सी०सी०जी०	93716	104760
(ii) एम-3	353949	408413

(ग) भारतीय रुपए की क्रय शक्ति का मूल्यांकन औद्योगिक कर्मचारियों के लिए उपभोक्ता मूल्य सूचकांक (सी०पी०आई०) के परिचालन द्वारा मुद्रास्फीति दरों के घटबढ़ के आकलन के आधार पर किया गया। सी०पी०आई० के बढ़ने के बावजूद इसमें कमी आई है। उपभोक्ता कीमतें मुद्रा पूर्ति, कृषि एवं औद्योगिक उत्पादन सहित विभिन्न कारकों पर निर्भर करती हैं।